

NCA
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NUCLEAR CONTROLS: SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS

ANNCR:

THE FIRST DAYS OF THE NEW YEAR HAVE SEEN SEVERAL MOVES AIMED AT CURBING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WITH A BACKGROUND REPORT HERE IS VOA'S JULIAN GORSKI:

VOICE:

PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING IN PARIS AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER JAMES CALLAGHAN'S MEETING WITH INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI IN NEW DELHI APPEAR TO HAVE IMPROVED THE CHANCES OF SLOWING DOWN THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. AFTER MR. CARTER'S DEPARTURE FROM THE FRENCH CAPITAL, PRESIDENT GISCARD TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE AND THE AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAD AGREED ON THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER (JANUARY 9), THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT FRANCE WAS SEEKING TO MODIFY ITS CONTRACT TO SELL PAKISTAN A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT BY ADDING SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE MANUFACTURE OF WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM. COMMENTING ON THE FRENCH MOVE, THE "NEW YORK TIMES" NOTES THAT WEST GERMANY NOW APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY NATION DETERMINED TO GO THROUGH WITH ITS NUCLEAR FOREIGN SALES CONTRACT...ONE INVOLVING REACTORS AND A REPROCESSING PLANT ORDERED BY BRAZIL.

NONETHELESS, WEST GERMANY DID JOIN FOURTEEN OTHER NATIONS THIS WEEK (JANUARY 11) IN AGREEING TO A CODE OF SAFEGUARDS TO INSURE THAT FUTURE EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT -- REACHED IN BILATERAL TALKS -- THE FIFTEEN NATIONS, KNOWN AS THE SUPPLIER GROUP, WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN SELLING SO-CALLED "SENSITIVE FACILITIES" AS WELL AS TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR USE IN WEAPONS. THE AGREEMENT

ALSO STIPULATES THAT NATIONS PURCHASING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WILL ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS INCLUDING PERIODIC INSPECTION OF FACILITIES. THEY WOULD ALSO PLEDGE TO APPLY THE SAME SAFEGUARDS WHEN RE-EXPORTING NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO A THIRD NATION. (OPT) THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT ON NUCLEAR TRADE, JOSEPH NYE, CALLED THE AGREEMENT "A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT" IN PROVIDING WORLD ENERGY REQUIREMENTS WHILE AVOIDING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. (END OPT)

SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED, VISITING BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN TOLD NEWSMEN IN NEW DELHI THAT INDIA MIGHT ACCEPT -- WHAT HE CALLED: "FULL-SCOPE" SAFEGUARDS FOR ITS NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS EVEN THOUGH IT STILL REFUSES TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER, "THE GUARDIAN," INDIA WOULD RELAX ITS BAN ON INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF INDIAN NUCLEAR PLANTS AS SOON AS THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY, AND WOULD GRADUALLY ELIMINATE THEIR NUCLEAR STOCKPILES, ALONG WITH BRITAIN.

AS FOR FRANCE AND CHINA, THE INDIAN LEADER SAID HE HOPES BOTH EVENTUALLY WILL JOIN IN THE ACCORD..BUT THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION SHOULD NOT BE A PRECONDITION.

JS/PY